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SENT BY FAX AND MAIL

February 5th, 2013

Jean-Pierre Blais
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0N2

Dear Mr. Blais:

Several people from Saskatchewan have contacted my office recently voicing concerns about automated telephone calls they received, especially last Thursday and Friday. The calls all relate to the redrawing of federal electoral boundaries in Saskatchewan, and in the format of a "push poll", accuse the Boundaries Commission of trying to destroy Saskatchewan values. The tone, I am told, is quite offensive.

While the message identifies the caller as "Chase Research", it does not appear to disclose on whose behalf Chase Research is making the call. This, despite the fact that the CRTC's Unsolicited Telecommunications Rule Part IV 4(d) clearly requires a telemarketer to identify the client on whose behalf it is calling.

The call-back number provided during the automated message is 1-306-993-2392. People report being unable to get any live response from this number.

The redrawing of electoral boundaries is a tremendously important part of the democratic process. It is disconcerting to have some anonymous entity devoting a great deal of effort and money to discredit that process while it is still ongoing, and to malign the independent commissioners who are doing the work.

I ask you to look into this matter on an urgent basis to determine what is going on, and to apply any penalties that may be relevant.

Sincerely,


Ralph Goodale, MP
Wascana

